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February 3, 2009

To Members of the Connecticut Labor Committee:

I am writing to voice my opposition to HB-6187, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. While we understand the rationale behind this Bill, we are strongly opposed to another mandated cost as a manufacturing based employer. As a manufacturer, we already provide excellent benefits to our employees in Connecticut - we provide 3 paid sick/personal days, 11 paid holidays, 5 weeks of vacation, profit sharing and a 401K plan. We suggest that you address those employers who are taking advantage of their employees and not paying benefits, and not penalize companies that are paying good benefits.

Your timing to reintroduce this Bill could not be worse. Over the last year we have been forced to reduce our workforce from 140 to under 100 employees today, some of whom are being periodically furloughed due to lack of work. Even so, we expect to incur significant financial losses in Connecticut during 2009. We all know how difficult manufacturing is in the U.S. today, please do not make it more difficult to do business in our State.

Our business was founded in Connecticut in 1924. Today we have more employees in New York and almost as many in New Hampshire than we have in Connecticut - it may be surprising to you to know that Connecticut is our highest cost state, even higher than New York! While we have never thought about leaving Connecticut, I will tell you that our future growth will be outside of Connecticut if the State continues to along its current path.

I would much prefer to see Connecticut invest in employee training and business development instead of passing legislation that will raise our costs of doing business in the State. We want to see Connecticut grow and prosper through good jobs for all State residents, please don't drive jobs out of the State by passing the Sick Leave Bill.

Sincerely,

Newman M. Marsilius
President